

1981

A. HIGHLIGHTS

One visit was made to Nantucket on July 9, 1981 by Refuge Manager Gavutis. A general tour of the refuge and a discussion of management problems were conducted with Mr. Dick Bellevue, Manager of Coscata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge adjacent to the federal refuge. The main problems discussed were the ORV use conflicting with tern nesting and the destruction of vegetation on Nantucket NWR.

C. LAND ACQUISITION

1. Fee Title

This 40-acre beach/dune complex, called Great Point, was acquired by transfer from the U. S. Coast Guard in 1975. There is no active acquisition program at Nantucket Island.

The Town of Nantucket received \$124.00 under the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act for fiscal year 1980.

2. Easements

At the refuge's inception in 1975, the U. S. Coast Guard reserved the right to maintain an existing navigational light tower.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

No personnel are assigned to Nantucket Island NWR. The refuge staff tries to visit the island at least once annually. Since 1975, the refuge has been managed for the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Trustees of Reservations who also manage the Coscata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge, a property held by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. The two adjacent, private wildlife areas total about 1,600 acres.

1980 TOTAL YR FISH VISITS = 675

1979 = 1430

POUND ISLAND

5. Funding

No specific funding is provided to Nantucket Island NWR. Administration costs of this satellite are absorbed by the Parker River NWR budget.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

The refuge consists of coastal sand dune habitat with low shrub vegetation and shifting sands. There are numerous old ORV trails throughout the refuge which need restoring. If funding and staffing were available, the use of snow fences and beach grass planting would help restore some of the disturbed area.

G. WILDLIFE

The waters around Nantucket Island are an important wintering area for common eider, scoter, oldsquaw, scaup, and other diving duck species.

Herring and great black-backed gulls use the refuge year-round. Common and least terns nest on the private wildlife areas but not on the refuge. Arctic and roseate terns may also be seen in the area during the summer, even though terns have not been nesting at Great Point (another name for the refuge) in recent years as they had in the past. A colony at Great Point was occupied fairly continuously from 1940 to 1967, with a peak in the early 1950's when up to 300 pairs might have bred (J.C. Andrews; AFN 1954-55). The most recent account of common and Arctic terns nesting at Great Point were 3 and 5 pairs respectively in 1972 (I.C.T. Nisbet; Bird Banding, Winter 1973). The only account of roseate terns nesting at Great Point were a few in 1949 (J. C. Andrews).

Gray and harbor seals use the refuge in the winter months.

H. PUBLIC USE

Wildlife-oriented public use of the refuge is primarily surf fishing, beachcombing, and hiking. Access is by four-wheel-drive vehicle, foot, or boat. Vehicle access is controlled

by means of permits issued by the Trustees of Reservations. On the three areas, there is a system of controlled use marked, "Over-Sand Routes," or roadways within the dune areas. Vehicles are required to stay on these marked routes.

Most of the non-wildlife-oriented recreation consists of four-wheel-drive vehicle use of the beaches for other activities, such as swimming, sunbathing, and sightseeing.

J. OTHER ITEMS

3. Credits

Narrative Report - Douglas G. Spencer

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